

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-23 are now presented for examination.

Applicants note that the current rejection is the 5th completely new ground of rejection presented in the 4th final rejection during prosecution that has lasted 5 years next month. Throughout all 5 completely new grounds of rejection, the claim has relied upon generalized instructions and tuner-specific protocols. Upon overcoming this 5th ground, can Applicants expect anything other than a new 6th ground of rejection?

Claim Objections

Claim 18 is objected to for an error in reciting “a first video connection” instead of “a second video connection.” The claim is corrected as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants apologize for the error.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Stecyk and Griep

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stecyk et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0171624 (“Stecyk”) in further view of Griep, U.S. Patent No. 7,009,528 (“Griep”). Stecyk shows a remote control for a home theater system that can send different commands to different devices (universal remote control). Griep is new. It shows a form of two-way infrared communication where a stereo system sends messages back to an infrared remote control in response to remote commands (two-way remote control).

This new rejection is therefore a further refined effort to read the present claims onto infrared remote control systems.

Applicant maintain that the claims of the present application do not read on remote controls, whether universal, two-way or any other type.

The Examiner's reading of Stecyk has the user or his handheld remote control generating a command in a generalized protocol (applied to graphics controller) and then the Device Management System 116 converting this into an IR blaster output to control the affected device (applied to microprocessor). The shared control line is read onto the IR optical space used by the IR blaster sending the appropriate remote control code, depending upon the selected device. Griep is applied not to the IR connection between the user and the TV, but to the IR connection between the blaster and the selected device.

While Applicants have previously mentioned the described embodiment of an I2C bus with which the microcontroller communicates with the tuners, the Examiner may feel that the claims are still too broad. In order to address this possible concern, the claims are amended to be limited to a shared wired control line and to using an assigned address and variations thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that IR blasters do not use wired lines nor addresses to blast IR commands to tuners. The amendments further distinguish the claimed invention as directed to a different part of the entertainment device and directed to different problems than those of the infrared remote control.

Applicants respectfully submit further that the amendments do not raise new issues as these features have been previously discussed and are suggested in original dependent claims. The limitation of using an assigned address would require the same search as the already claimed data addressed to the respective tuner.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

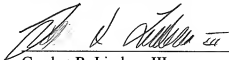
Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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